



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: San Diego Poets and Writers Join National Observance of Disaster 100 Years Ago this Month *with Diane and Jerome Rothenberg and other Distinguished Guests*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library will host a *Poetry Commemoration*, with guest poets and writers, of the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Factory Fire on Friday, March 25 at 3:00 pm in the 3rd floor Auditorium, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. A century ago on March 25th, 146 young immigrant women workers, aged sixteen to twenty-three, lost their lives in a fire that broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City. They had been locked in the building by the owners, a building with broken fire escapes.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire on March 25, 1911 was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of the city of New York and resulted in the fourth highest loss of life from an industrial accident in U.S. history. The fire led to legislation requiring improved factory safety standards and helped spur the growth of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which fought for better working conditions for sweatshop workers.

Within days of the event, poets were inspired to write and publish memorial works for the victims. More recently, a new generation of writers began writing about the Triangle Fire. Some of these poets have won national award for their work: Chris Llewelyn (1981) the Whitman Award for Poetry; and Mary Fell (1984) the National Poetry Series.

Poet Julia Stein has compiled an anthology *Walking Through the River of Fire: 100 Years of Triangle Fire Poems*, from which the invited writers will read. San Diego's own honored poets and critics **Diane and Jerome Rothenberg** will be featured readers along with other distinguished guests.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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